Conference Connection is the monthly eNewsletter of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. You're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the work of the Southeast Conference. Don't forget to add clwaldron@secucc.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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Historical Marker Commemorates Rush Memorial as an Important Site of the Civil Rights Movement

Alethea Boone speaking at the dedication

The Georgia Historical Society dedicated an historical marker at Rush Memorial Congregational UCC in Atlanta on October 16, 2014. This was one of two markers dedicated on that day as the first sites in the Civil Rights Trail Initiative. The other being a marker honoring the Atlanta Student Movement. Mr. Lonnie King, as well as representatives of the Georgia Historical Society and the Georgia Economic Development Department, spoke at the dedication of the Atlanta Student Movement Marker. Mrs. Alethea Boone, wife of the late Rev. Joseph E. Boone and Rev. June Boutwell, Designated Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference United Church of Christ, spoke at the dedication of the marker at Rush Memorial. Those who attended the 2014 Southeast Conference Annual Meeting will recall the presentation of a certificate of support from the Southeast Conference and the Charles E. Cobb Racial Justice Fund in the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministry. That certificate was presented again at the dedication so that those gathered were aware of this support.

Marker Text:
In the spring of 1960, students from Atlanta University, the Interdenominational Theological Center, Clark, Morehouse, Morris Brown, and Spelman colleges formed the Atlanta Student Movement and joined thousands of other students throughout the South to fight segregation and discrimination in places of public accommodation. After

being denied the use of office space on the Atlanta University campus, the students were given free use of an office here by Rev. Joseph E. Boone. A leader in the Atlanta Movement, Rev. Boone headed pastoral projects like Operation Breadbasket, which encouraged the employment of African Americans. Despite some concerns about the students' use of the facilities, the congregation supported their efforts through donations of food and supplies. Rush Church illustrates the importance of local churches and their congregations in the organization and implementation of civil rights activities throughout the South.
Erected by the Georgia Historical Society, United Church of Christ - Southeast Conference, and Rush Memorial Congregational Church

Jottings from June

Fall is in the air. Folks are beginning new programs, stewardship campaigns are underway, planning for Advent is happening. It is a busy time for churches and for the Designated Conference Minister. During October I attended the Alabama Tennessee (Mississippi/West Florida) Association meeting, the Southern and Southeast Conferences Retired Servants Event at Blowing Rock Conference Center in Blowing Rock, North Carolina, participated in Atlanta Pride activities at Victory for the World UCC in Stone Mountain, Georgia, and spoke at the dedication of the Georgia State Historical Marker Dedication at Rush Memorial Congregational UCC in Atlanta. Please see related articles for all these events in this newsletter.

I also preached at Phoenix Church in Wildersville, Tennessee (Pastor Marsha Brown) on Worldwide Communion Sunday, met with outdoor ministry colleagues in Southern Conference (Bill Bourdon at Blowing Rock Conference Center and Curly Stumb at John's River Camp), preached at Huntsville United Church (Alabama) and at First Congregational UCC Talladega (Alabama) for their Fall Worship and Fellowship Sunday. I also attended evening worship at Safe Harbor Family UCC in Flowood, Mississippi and met with some church leaders. I was a guest at the 100th Anniversary dinner for Pilgrim Church Chattanooga and attended a house church gathering in Carrollton, Georgia with a group of people interested in a possible United Church of Christ/ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) partnership church start.

Click here to read the rest of June's message on the SECUCC website

Blessings, June

Alabama Tennessee Association

Fall Meeting Report

The Alabama Tennessee Association held its Fall Meeting at First Congregational UCC in Birmingham, Alabama October 3-4, 2014. Friday night included a fellowship dinner and worship led by Covenant Community Church, Center Point Alabama. Rev. JR Finney of Covenant Community Church preached a wonderful sermon on fellowship and relationship.

On Saturday, delegates gathered for morning devotions and the business meeting. The Re-imagining Task Force, which has been meeting for a year to determine the functions of the Association now that they have ceded all actions regarding authorized ministry to the Southeast Conference Commission on Ministry, presented their report and recommendations. The Re-Imagining Task Force (Rev. Debbie Douglas, Rev. John Gill, Rev. Leslie Etheridge, Tonya Barnette, Pastor Amber Kirkendoll, Kimberly Lee,

Hannah Meyers, and John Stewart) was appointed by Rev. Gary Myers, Association Moderator by request of those who gathered for last year's annual meeting to explore new possibilities and reasons for staying together as an Association.

The delegates defeated a motion to disband the Association and voted to accept the recommendations of the Task Force.

First, that the churches of our Association continue to remain in formal relationship to one another in some intentionally structured form like an association of churches; and

Second, that whatever form such an association takes, it ought to fulfill the following essential functions:

1. Supporting Local Churches and Pastors
2. Embracing Our Unity in Diversity by Worshipping Together
3. Strengthening Our Shared Identity by Working Together
4. Fulfilling Our Call to Support the Formation of Ordained Ministers

Third, that the current official form of the Association remain intact until a new structure is formed to replace it.

Fourth, that a leadership team be appointed to develop a more detailed description of such a new structure including necessary by-laws changes.

A fifth function was added by amendment to the proposal requesting an education component.

All officers have agreed to continue in their terms for the next year with the exception of Ginny Nixon who has asked to step down as treasurer. The executive committee is seeking nominations to appoint a new treasurer.

SECUCC Churches march in the Atlanta Pride Parade

ATLANTA PRIDE

Many thanks to Erin Johnson, Don Harris, and Gwen Thomas for coordinating UCC Atlanta Pride events this year.

The events kicked off at Victory for the World Church in Stone Mountain on Saturday afternoon with a screening and panel discussion of the documentary The New Black, which examines how the African American community (and more specifically, African American churches) are continuing to grapple with the issue of LGBTQ+ equality. The Southeast Conference hosted a reception following the discussion, giving attendees an opportunity to fellowship with each other. In the evening Victory for the World hosted an ONA service featuring seven speakers, including Designated Conference Minister, June Boutwell, offering sermonettes on passages from Michael Piazza's book, Queeries.

Several Atlanta area UCC churches including Victory for the World, Virginia Highland Church, Decatur UCC, Praxis UCC
Central Congregational UCC, and Kirkwood UCC marched in the Pride Parade on Sunday afternoon.

Please mark your calendar with the following events!

2014

November 15 *Commission on Ministry Meeting, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga, TN*

December 1-3 *National Youth Leaders' Gathering, Savannah, GA*

2015

January 16-19 *Winter Youth Retreat, Blowing Rock Conference Center, Blowing Rock, NC*

February 21 *Commission on Ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga, TN*

June 11-13 *Pre-event and Southeast Conference Annual Meeting, Piedmont College, Demorest GA*

Film discussion at Victory for the World

Generosity Corner

Fairfield Glade Community Church celebrates GENEROSITY SUNDAY!

John and Mary Zanichelli, Jim Moore of Fairfield Glade Stewardship Committee

On Sunday Sept 28, Fairfield Glade Community Church celebrated "Generosity Sunday" which marked the high point of their fall appeal for 2015 financial commitments. The committee launched their fall appeal using new language and new practices from the past. One practice was collecting "Generosity Commitment Cards" rather than "pledges". They are very encouraged that the level of participation and the overall commitments have been significantly higher than the previous year. Debbie Spearman joined them as Guest Steward for their Sunday service. The Rev. Dr. Marvin Morgan is their Interim Minister.

Online Giving

Does your church offer online giving? Should you? According to recent surveys by Vanco Services, churches that invite online giving have higher giving rates than those who don't. If you want to explore options for Online Giving for your church, email Debbie Spearman at dspearman@secucc.org.

OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION
Thank you to those church's that have made timely payments to OCWM. However, we still are running behind on our projections for the year. Please consider making your 4th Quarter payment today. OCWM supports our local conference work, the national UCC setting as well as around the world.

TRANSFORMING CHURCHES - TRANSFORMING LIVES CAMPAIGN
Campaign dollars collected to date: $189,978.00 . Thank you.

June 26-30 *General Synod in Cleveland, OH*

August 8 *Commission on Ministry, Pilgrim Congregational UCC, Chattanooga, TN*

October 16-18 *Southern Regional Women's Conference, Sumatanga Retreat Center, Gallant, AL*

2016

July 26-29 *National Youth Event Orlando, FL*

Winter Youth Retreat
January 16-19, 2015

Early registration has started for our upcoming Winter Youth Retreat 2015 at Blowing Rock Conference Center in Blowing Rock, NC (Jan 16-19, 2015). Attached below are a flyer advertising the event and the registration form. Print the forms and send completed registration to Winter Youth Retreat 2015 (2676 Clairmont Rd. NE Atlanta, GA 30329). Make sure the check is made payable to Blowing Rock Conference Center with "WYR 2015" in the memo. Please spread the word about this amazing weekend for our UCC youth in 6th-12th grade. You can email Lacey Brown here with questions or concerns. Also, find us on Facebook and 'like' our page. Thanks for all your help and your continued support.

You can download the Winter Youth Retreat Flyer here
Download registration materials here
Winter Retreat Facebook page is here

Coming soon, to your church, granting applications for 2015.

Debbie Spearman, Generosity Coordinator

Retired Servants Retreat

Retired servants in ministry from Southern and Southeast Conferences gathered for the 4th Annual Retreat at Blowing Rock Conference Center on October 6-8. We introduced ourselves by ordering our seats by the state and town we were born in. Evening worship was on the theme "That they may all be one", lifting up ideas for discussion of how justice and peace may be done through the UCC.

The retreat had a number of film screenings pertinent to the ministry in the south sparking excellent discussion. The morning program was a video and discussion, "State of Conflict - North Carolina," about Moral Monday marches in Raleigh and what is behind them led by Rev. Craig Schaub. We also discussed the film "Inequality for All", featuring Robert Reich with a discussion coordinated by Rev. Joyce Myers-Brown. During the evening program we viewed a rough cut of the documentary "Sacred Sound" produced by Rev. Robin Townsley Acrus, which sparked discussion about the role of music in worship and how to reach others through music.

We're grateful to the worship leaders for the retreat including Rev. Joyce Myers-Brown, Rev. David Cook, and Rev. Jamie Fonville.

The retreat closed with conversations with Rev. June Boutwell and Dr. Edward Davis about state of the UCC in the Southeast and Southern Conferences. The two Conference Ministers led us in a meaningful communion and closing worship.

PATHWAYS

Theological Education for a Changing World

UCC African-American Women in Ministry Gather at The Franklinton Center

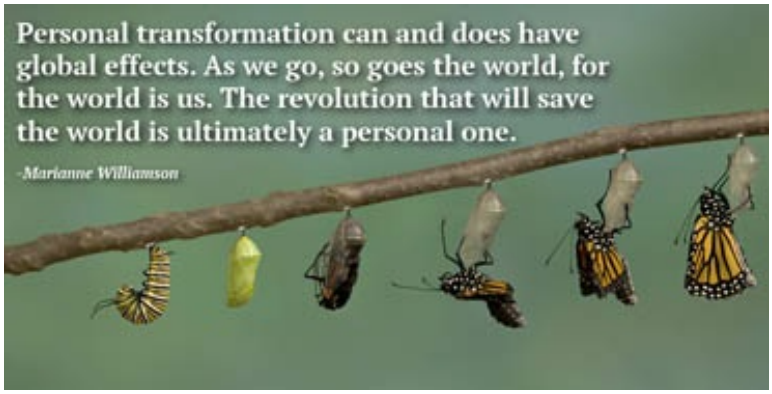
"Embracing God's Call: From Isolation to Celebration"

Approximately 100 African-American women in ministry from across the country recently gathered on sacred grounds at the historic Franklinton Center at Bricks in Whitaker, North Carolina on October 9-11, 2014. The African-American Women in Ministry (AAWIM) biennial conference is designed to bring together women of all phases and stages - licensed, ordained, commissioned and in discernment - within various settings of the United Church of Christ. Participants from the Southeast Conference included Charmaine Penn Johnson (who also served on the planning team), Regina Drake, Henrietta Andrews, and Susan Mitchell.

This year's conference was themed:"Embracing God's Call: From Isolation to Celebration." The Annunciation, Mary's visit to Elizabeth and the Song of Mary (Magnificat) in Luke 1 were foundational in the designation of stages one often experiences on the journey to a full embrace of God' call - from isolation to identification to proclamation and celebration.

Dynamic and powerful guest preachers included Dr. Valerie Bridgeman, Dr. Jennifer Leath and Dr. Christine Wiley, who offered inspiration and challenge through the Preached Word. Sisters were inspired by thoughtful discussions, transformed through prayer and revived through the gifts of laughter and sisterhood. The culmination of the conference was a spirit-filled time of worship, remembrance and celebration in honor of the Rev. Dr. Yvonne V. Delk, the first African-American woman to be ordained in the United Church of Christ, for her 40th year of ordination in the Christian ministry.

For more information on the AAWIM, go to www.aawim.spruz.com. To sign up for the AAWIM e-newsletter, email aaawimucc@gmail.com.



A Time for Personal Transformation: a Call for a New Level 2 Cohort

If you have been feeling the "call," and have been considering immersing yourself in theological education and ministerial training to fulfill that call, this may be the time to act. PATHWAYS is now accepting applications to fill a new Level 2 cohort. The Level 2 program is designed to equip learners for authorized ministry in the local churches of the United Church of Christ, specifically as a licensed minister. In this 15-month long program, the participants will be taking ten courses, including three Supervised Ministry I practicum courses that address the practical side of being a minister.

The deadline for the application and the two recommendation letters is December 10, 2014. All who have completed the PATHWAYS Level 1 program, or the 3-year TAP (Theology Among the People) Program or its equivalent, are eligible to apply. To learn more about the program and the scholarship opportunities, send all inquiries to: admin_pathways@tasc21.net.

Rev, Sarah Kim, Dean of PATHWAYS

emergence RETREAT

CANCELLED

See emergenceretreat.com for more details

Forward this issue

Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ

Appreciation Celebration for Rev. Dr. Dwight Andrews
November 9, 2014

First Congregational Church, U.C.C. Requests Your Presence at the Appreciation Celebration for Rev. Dr. Dwight D. Andrews Celebrating the Minister, the Maestro, and the Mensch

Sunday Worship Service
November 9, 2014 at 11:00am with Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Nicholas Hood, III Senior Minister, Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC, Detroit, MI

Reception immediately following worship service at First Congregational Church, UCC, 105 Courtland Street, NE Atlanta, GA 30303

Partners in Ministry Since 1914

The Pension Boards
United Church of Christ, Inc.

The Pension Boards-UCC Chief Executive Officer Search Committee is now in the resume gathering stage of the search for this position. While the targeted start date for the new CEO is next July (2015 Synod), now is the time in the process for all interested professionals to express their interest in this position. Qualified professionals can access the position specification on the Pension Boards' website, or by contacting the retained search firm directly.
Anne F. Keating of Fraser Keating Associates is leading this search. Please contact either Anne or PatriciaNevins
at this time. If there are questions, Anne can be reached directly at 917.207.1587 and Patricia can be reached directly at 203.894.1699.

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